

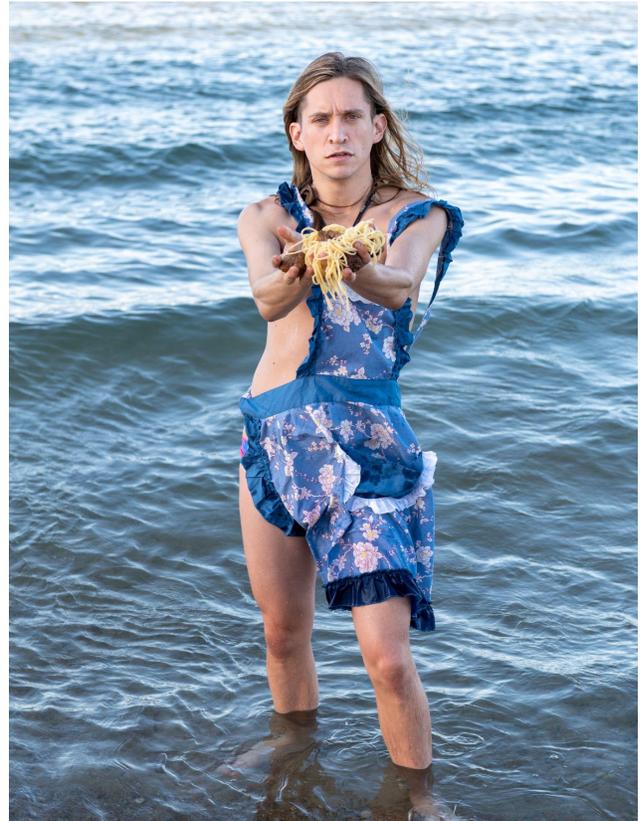
# Toronto Fringe Summons the Dead in Meatball Séance

An Interactive Comedy  
Created and Performed by John Michael  
Directed by Sammy Zeisel  
Developed by Arlo Howard  
Contact:  
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214-293-7542  
[Ticket Link](#)

## STORY:

John Michael has a new boyfriend, possibly played by you! Aren't you excited to meet his dead mom?! *Meatball Séance* is an interactive comedy of grief and sex with a healthy dose of garlic and fennel.

Over 300 audience members have joined John Michael on stages in Chicago, Dallas, St. Louis, Indianapolis, Orlando, Bergen, Gothenburg, Winnipeg, Edinburgh, and now Ottawa to summon his mother from the grave by cooking her famous meatballs onstage.



Developed by Arlo Howe and directed by Sammy Zeisel, this trauma clown performance will leave you horny, hungry, and happy to be alive.

"Oh my GOD, that was fun!! Meatball Séance is one of the most outrageous and one of the most original shows we'll ever see...Don't miss it." -★★★★★, CBC Radio



Performance Details:  
Meatball Séance  
Age Accessibility- 14 +  
Runtime-55 Minutes  
Tickets-\$12 Cad, except for preview performance

Language- English

Content Warnings: Sexual Descriptions, Adult Language and Addictive Audience Participation.

Venue: The Guloien Theatre - Streetcar Crowsnest  
345 Carlaw Ave, Toronto, ON M4M 2T1

Show times:

Wed- 7/6 @ 8:45 PM \* (Preview Performance- \$8 tickets)

Fri- 7/8 @ 9:45 PM

Sat- 7/9 @ 5:00 PM

Mon- 7/11 @ 3:00 PM

Tue-7/12 @ 2:00 PM

Thu- 7/14 @ 5:45 PM

Sat- 7/16 @ 6:15 PM

John Michael is a performance artist based in Chicago, Illinois. Meatball Séance is one of 9 original solo plays by John Michael. Other titles include: *Would You Like Guys With That?*, *Dementia Me*, *Like Me*, and *It's Not All About You John Michael*. Notable stops include The Steppenwolf Theater in Chicago, the Southern Rep in New Orleans, the Winnipeg Fringe, the Bergen Fringe, Gothenburg Fringe, and Edinburgh Fringe.

Meatball Séance includes optional audience participation with actual cooking on stage. Mixed with garlic, breadcrumbs, milk, and meat -- this is **Fringe Theater** at its finest. Don't miss John Michael's Meatball Séance!

There are 5 roles for the audience to play and "the only way to avoid participating is to cross your arms. (Pro tip: do not



cross your arms. You want to be a part of this). Endearingly Unhinged" - St. Louis Limelight. The show tackles the oftentimes delicate subjects of grief and loss with charm and wit alongside John Michael's undeniably puckish spirit.

"A whirlwind of happiness that must be seen."-Wendy Carson, Plays with Wendy and John

"If a cooking segment about his dead mother sounds morbid, John Michael sees it, rather, as intensely human. It's not a dour show, but an affirming, interactive, community-building experience." *The Dallas Voice*

"For something so sad, it's joyous (or vice versa). John Michael's wide-eyed optimism is infectious.. he never loses us. "★★★★★, The Wee Review

"John Michael employs high-octane comedy and silliness in order to tackle the dark and sticky sides of topics like relationships, death, and what happens after you've reached your emotional bottom." -Anthony Morgano, Chicago Pride

Director Sammy Zeisel and John Michael have rewritten about a quarter of the material to make space for more adventurous participation based on a flavor of consent that is joyful.

For a selection of recent long-haired photos taken by Paul Clark in June of 2022 go to this [link](#). (This will be added to as the photoshoot was recent.)

For a selection of hi-res images in performance photos taken by Paul Clark in 2019 go to this [link](#)

For any other inquiries contact John Michael directly at [devisingjohnmichael@gmail.com](mailto:devisingjohnmichael@gmail.com)